

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 181400Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1095

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 3 5 1

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PDIP, OCLR, UR, US

SUBJ: WAR ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCES IN LENINGRAD: NAVAL SHIP VISIT

REF: MOSCOW 3569

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

1. AS SOVIET UNION'S SECOND CITY, AND AS HERO CITY OF THE BLOCKADE, LENINGRAD IS MAKING ELABORATE PREPARATIONS TO OBSERVE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II. I BELIEVE THERE IS EVERY REASON TO SEEK A FORM AND LEVEL OF US PARTICIPATION IN THE LENINGRAD OBSERVANCES WHICH WILL (A) ILLUSTRATE THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS EQUALLY INVOLVED DURING THAT ERA AND (B) EMPHASIZE OUR PRESENCE AND IMPORTANCE IN TODAY'S BROAD CONTEXT OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND EFFORTS TOWARD DETENTE. IT PARTICULARLY SERVES OUR POSITION HERE IN LENINGRAD TO UTILIZE SUCH AN OCCASION TO "SHOW THE FLAG" IN STYLE.

2. WE HAVE RAISED WITH LENINGRAD DIPLOMATIC AGENCY THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TWO MARINES IN DRESS UNIFORM TO CARRY THE WREATH WHICH THE CONSUL GENERAL WILL LAY AT  
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THE PISKAREVSKOYE MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON MAY 9. DIPLOMATIC

AGENCY'S INITIAL REACTION WAS FAVORABLE, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION. CONGEN OFFICERS HAVE CARRIED WREATH IN PAST WREATH LAYINGS, ALTHOUGH CONSULATES OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN LENINGRAD FREQUENTLY UTILIZE UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THEIR SERVICES WHO ARE STUDENTS AT LENINGRAD MILITARY ACADEMIES.

3. I ALSO THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER A US NAVAL VISIT TO LENINGRAD IN CONNECTION WITH THE WW II COMMEMORATION HERE IN MAY. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THIS QUESTION HAS ALTERNATED BETWEEN THE FRONT AND BACK BURNERS FOR SOME TIME. NATURALLY, SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF A NAVAL VISIT IS THE ESSENTIAL FACTOR. IT WOULD SHOW US OFF WELL TO HAVE US SAILORS AROUND THE CITY DURING THE MAY EVENTS. A VISIT BY TWO VESSELS, PERHAPS DESTROYERS, WOULD BE IDEAL. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE A MORNING IN THE NEVA RIVER, BUT WOULD STILL AMOUNT TO QUITE AN ATTRACTION IF MOORED OFF VASIL'YEVSKIY ISLAND.

4. PLEASE ADVISE RE PROSPECTS FOR NAVAL VISIT. ALTHOUGH SOVIET ACCEPANCE WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, DEPEND ONLY ON LENINGRAD'S WILLINGNESS, SEVERAL LENINGRAD MILITARY AND CIVIL OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY MENTIONED DESIRABILITY OF SUCH VISIT IN MY VARIOUS CALLS ON THEM.  
NEUBERT

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